HOW THE SU HELPS YOU

A staff member’s guide to the Students’ Union (SU) and how it can support your students and you.

Staff are at the core functioning of the University of Leicester; our knowledge, skills and passion help us all to deliver an outstanding student experience.

The SU focus is on ensuring three main elements of the student experience: Student Voice, Support and Life.

Click on the links throughout this booklet for more information.
WHY DO WE NEED A STUDENTS’ UNION?

All of our students at Leicester are members of the SU, we’re a registered charity with students’ needs and core values at our heart and our partnership with you is vital to our success.

We’re independent to the University and run by elected Student Officers, backed by volunteers and staff. Our mission is to support, enable and represent by helping students learn new skills, make friends, have fun, solve problems and love their time at Leicester.

The core components of our SU are:

TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER IN AN INCLUSIVE STUDENT COMMUNITY
We offer the biggest community on campus and try to ensure we cater for all of our students with events and activities throughout the year.

TO REPRESENT OUR STUDENTS & FACILITATE CHANGE
The SU is run by students for students. We have reps in every area of student life, making things better for everyone.

TO HELP SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE GROW
Learning extends beyond academia. We help students develop the skills they need.

TO OFFER A HELPING HAND
We provide support and signposting in many ways to ensure our students can manage university life.

TO WIDEN PARTICIPATION
We provide outreach to schools and colleges to educate them about the benefits of university and offer extra support to our students from a WP background.

TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES & ACTIVITIES
Students have a huge choice of activities from joining a student group or volunteering project, to becoming a student leader (for student groups, Course Reps and Union Council).

TO PROVIDE SOCIAL SPACES, OUTLETS & ENTERTAINMENT
Our building boasts social and meeting spaces, along with SU departments where we run events. Our building hosts food outlets, shops, a Starbucks and an O2 venue.

TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH STUDENTS, THE UNIVERSITY & THE COMMUNITY
Partnerships enable us to be as effective, reflective and accessible as possible in our mission to provide an exceptional experience here.
HOW WE ACHIEVE OUR MISSION

HELLO

SU

EMPOWERING YOU

 Coordinate 430 Course Reps, 27 Department Reps & 6 College Reps
 Support 100’s of teaching and learning changes annually

Coordinate Union Council – the students’ version of Parliament
The Council is run by elected students who democratically make decisions and vote on policy

Provide enhancing courses and workshops on many topics
Students can design and deliver training for other students

Support and train 450+ peer mentors supporting over 900 mentees
Provide support and guidance to first years from students who have walked in their shoes

Coordinate 210+ student groups with 1,400+ committee members and 10,000+ of members.
Facilitate 1000’s of group events annually, fundraised £14,500 in 15-16

Coordinate outreach to schools, colleges and current widening participation students
Provide volunteering and fundraising opportunities

Provide Free, confidential academic advice and promote preventative strategies
Coordinate #LeicsTalk signposting students to support services

5 elected full-time student officers and 8 part-time officers that provide representation to the student body
They work in partnership with the SU and University to ensure the student voice is authentic and relevant

LEICESTER STUDENTS’ UNION

ACADEMIC REPRESENTATION

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

PEER MENTORING

COMMUNITY

EDUCATION

OFFICERS

TEAM LEICESTER

37 Team Leicester Clubs, with 70+ teams within these and nearly 2000 members
37th in BUCS Rankings out of 160, this is the top 25% in the country
WHAT IS THE VALUE OF OUR DEPARTMENTS

Click on link for more information

Student Value

Student Hub Officers

The Officers are elected by students to represent students and provide a credible and authentic voice to them. They aim to fulfil certain projects and manifesto ideas, wherever possible so they are able to make real changes to students’ University life.

They work with staff across the Union and the University to offer a student perspective in the development of student experience on all levels. This enables staff to ensure their processes and direction are appropriate and relevant to their students.

Develop your understanding further: leicesterunion.com/meetyourofficers

Student Hub Voice

Student Voice enables and empowers students to have their say via Union Council, the running of campaigns/events and carrying out of relevant research. They get to mix with people studying different things that they may not meet otherwise. Their opinions and decisions can genuinely shape the university experience for present and future students.

Through this work, the representatives develop many important transferable skills e.g. communication, public speaking and project management which further enhances their academic and personal skills. You can signpost students to Voice when you think they have an important suggestion that needs to be heard.

Develop your understanding further: leicesterunion.com/represent/unioncouncil

Student Hub Academic Representation

Academic Representation provides the means through which students can act as partners in improving education, promotes clarity in department communications and further enhances communication between various institutional levels and students. Additionally, it gives students the chance to improve skills that employers value.

Academic Representation empowers students to get actively involved in continuous improvement of the quality of learning and teaching for themselves and for the generations to come.

Develop your understanding further: leicesterunion.com/represent/course-reps

Student Hub Education

The Education Unit provides free, confidential academic advice to students, on issues such as mitigating circumstances, appeals, misconduct, and general course and exam worries. It also acts as a signposting service directing students to services around the campus and community via the Education Unit and by being the team that manages the #LeicsTalk advice and communications.

The Education Unit tries to prevent issues from developing, and can advise students on how to challenge decisions and raise concerns where departments may not be able to. The team provides the #LeicsTalk service, providing an umbrella service to all of the support services here at UOL. This enables staff to have knowledge of the services available and signpost students more effectively.

Develop your understanding further: leicesterunion.com/education
leicesterunion.com/support/leicsstalk
WHAT IS THE VALUE OF OUR DEPARTMENTS

**Student Value**

- **STUDENT HUB PEER MENTORING**
  - Developing transferable skills as a mentor and receiving support as a mentee.
  - Mentees have extra support, potentially freeing up staff time. Students who feel more integrated into University are more likely to stay and succeed academically.
  - Develop your understanding further: Peermentoring.su.le.ac.uk

- **STUDENT HUB TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT**
  - Gaining enhanced skills and knowledge through SU training.
  - Students gain skills that may benefit their studies and future employability.
  - Develop your understanding further: leicesterunion.com/training

**Staff Value**

- **STUDENT HUB COMMUNITY**
  - Students have an opportunity to manage and run their own student-led projects that aim to reach out to the local community to show the benefits of going to University. The team also support current Widening Participation (WP) students through their university journey.
  - Students can help you run engaging WP workshops and we can provide advice, guidance and support about running WP events as well as be present at them for you. We can help you to look out for and support your current WP students too.
  - Develop your understanding further: leicesterunion.com/getinvolved

- **STUDENT HUB ACTIVITIES**
  - Student leaders gain skills in leadership, event organisation, financial management and good communication. Plus they and the members are able to make friends, develop new skills and hobbies and make their time at University even more fulfilling.
  - We provide student group leaders with the tools to successfully run their group through training and development, skills which can be transferred to their academic studies. The groups’ events showcase the University in impressive and innovative ways and staff members are welcome to join our groups.
  - Develop your understanding further: leicesterunion.com/activities

- **TEAM UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER**
  - Team Leicester is one of many opportunities to get involved with sport and is the collective identity of all of the performance sports clubs that represent the University of Leicester. Clubs are open to all students regardless of ability. Team Leicester work with the University Sports and Recreation department to offer you further sporting opportunities including Let’s do Leicester, Leicester Academy and much more.
  - Research shows that students who play sport are less likely to drop out of University, earn more money on average after graduating and are less likely to experience a period of unemployment in their career. Staff members are welcome and encouraged to join our Teams.
  - Develop your understanding further: leicesterunion.com/teamleicester
Supporting and signposting students to the support services they need.

The #LeicsTalk message to students is that no matter what their backgrounds teach, they should feel comfortable to speak up and seek the help they need to thrive here at the University of Leicester. As supportive staff, we should all feel confident to encourage them to do this and signpost them to the appropriate services.

We ask that all staff familiarise themselves with these services (see below) and you can direct the student to [www.leicesterunion.com/support/leicstalk](http://www.leicesterunion.com/support/leicstalk) so they can view all of the services themselves. You can also encourage them to email our trained team at leicstalk@le.ac.uk if they want signposting advice.

### The support services you need to know are:

- **UNIVERSITY SERVICES**
  - AccessAbility (Disability Services) [le.ac.uk/offices/accessability](http://le.ac.uk/offices/accessability)
  - Chaplaincy (Spiritual Support) [le.ac.uk/institution/chaplaincy](http://le.ac.uk/institution/chaplaincy)
  - Counselling & Wellbeing (Mental Health Services) [le.ac.uk/offices/counselling & le.ac.uk/offices/mental-wellbeing](http://le.ac.uk/offices/counselling & le.ac.uk/offices/mental-wellbeing)
  - Residential Advisers (In University Accommodation) Speak to your Halls reception
  - Student Learning Development (Study Help) [le.ac.uk/offices/ld](http://le.ac.uk/offices/ld)
  - Student Welfare Service (Financial & Housing Advice) [le.ac.uk/offices/welfare](http://le.ac.uk/offices/welfare)

- **STUDENTS’ UNION**
  - C Card Registration (Free Condom Scheme) [leicesterunion.com/support/leicstalk](http://leicesterunion.com/support/leicstalk)
  - Choices Clinic (Sexual Health Drop-In Clinic) [leicesterunion.com/support/leicstalk](http://leicesterunion.com/support/leicstalk)
  - SU Officer Representative (Advice and Support) [leicesterunion.com/meetyourofficers](http://leicesterunion.com/meetyourofficers)
  - Education Unit (Confidential Academic Advice) [leicesterunion.com/support/education](http://leicesterunion.com/support/education)
  - Headspace (Mental Health Drop-In Clinic) [leicesterunion.com/support/leicstalk](http://leicesterunion.com/support/leicstalk)
  - Safe Space (#LeicsTalk drop in) [leicesterunion.com/support/leicstalk](http://leicesterunion.com/support/leicstalk)
  - Peer Mentoring Scheme (Student Mentor Support) [leicesterunion.com/peermentoring](http://leicesterunion.com/peermentoring)

- **STUDENT LED**
  - Autistic Spectrum Society [leicesterunion.com/autisticspectrum](http://leicesterunion.com/autisticspectrum)
  - LGBTQA+ Association (Sexual Orientation Support) [leicesterunion.com/lgbtqaassociation](http://leicesterunion.com/lgbtqaassociation)
  - Mental Health Awareness and Support (MHAS) Society [leicesterunion.com/mentalhealthawarenessandsupport](http://leicesterunion.com/mentalhealthawarenessandsupport)
  - Nightline (Student Listening Support Line) 0116 223 1230 / leicesterunion.com/nightline
  - Pro Bono (Free Legal Advice) [leicesterunion.com/probono](http://leicesterunion.com/probono)
  - Student Minds Society (Eating Disorder Support) [leicesterunion.com/studentminds](http://leicesterunion.com/studentminds)
  - Sexpression Society (Sexual Health Educators) [leicesterunion.com/sexpression](http://leicesterunion.com/sexpression)

- **COMMUNITY**
  - #Leicstalk can also direct you to community support too, for example Doctors, Police, Emergency Services and Local Support Organisations [leicesterunion.com/support/leicstalk/community-support](http://leicesterunion.com/support/leicstalk/community-support)
WHAT ELSE DO YOU NEED TO KNOW...

We love student staff

They're at the core of the majority of our departments and have enabled us to develop and improve our services radically in the past few years.

We run a top notch events programme

Our events run throughout the year including the Welcome Programme (Freshers' fortnight, International Welcome Week), national and cultural day events, Christmas markets, de-stress programmes around exam periods, Student Awards collaboration and many more.

We're passionate about change and campaign for this

By providing the students' voice on campus, locally and on a national stage. The SU is fundamentally a representative and campaigning organisation, campaigning for the rights of students and others.

We believe in a sustainable future

We highly value sustainability and run the Student Sustainability Working Group, Hungry for Change sustainability and gardening project, partner with the university on various projects and policies and encourage our students and staff to think and act green.

We can't do it without you

Our partnership with the University and you is essential to our success and we want to continue to grow together.
HELP US HELP YOU

Help your students by:

• Signposting to our services

• Ask us for posters and flyers for your departments and Blackboard areas

• Having us provide lecture shouts outs

• Ask us for a training session and visit us on an open day where you can learn more about the SU

• Contact our departments directly and develop links further with us

• Look out for our features and talks via the staff website and Insider

• Join our fortnightly website newsletter www.leicesterunion.com/users/sign_in to be the first to be updated by signing up to our website and opting in to communications from us

• Find out what’s going on in the Student Hub here: www.leicesterunion.com/student-hub - this is where all of our departments feature, so you can get in touch with any you’d like to

• We’re always happy to promote fellow teams activities too; utilise our marketing platforms (get in touch)

Get in touch today at hellosu@le.ac.uk / 0116 223 1181 and we’ll signpost you to the team that can help you.

Keep up-to-date with all our activities at: www.leicesterunion.com/student-hub

RECEPTION
Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

STUDENT HUB
Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm